

RESOLUTION 2013-04

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE DESIGNATION OF THE COLORADO NATIONAL MONUMENT AS A NATIONAL PARK

RECITALS:

The designation of the Colorado National Monument (CNM) by Executive Order of President Taft in 1911 recognized the exceptional quality and significance of these public lands, and provided for their protection and stewardship as an asset of the people of the United States. Over the century since the CNM's creation, the question of elevating the stature of CNM to that of a National Park has been a subject of discussion and debate within the communities of the Grand Valley. Renewed interest in the elevation of the Monument to Park status has fueled further discussion over the past two years. In addition to the spectacular natural and environmental attributes of the CNM, attention has also focused on the CNM's unique and dominant role as an icon of the area, its dominance as a crown jewel among the rich public lands of the region, and its evolution as an important anchor for the expanding regional tourism economy.

In pursuing its broad mission of downtown revitalization, the Grand Junction Downtown Development Authority (DDA) implements both economic and community development initiatives. Chief among the DDA's strategies is the promotion of strong community character, identity and pride that illuminate the importance of downtown as an anchor of community life, and cultivate the dynamic relationship of the downtown to the larger context around it. The DDA recognizes that this identity, as well as that of the entire city, is indelibly tied to our rich environmental setting, as evidenced in the name "Grand Junction" deriving from another dominant environmental feature of the region, the confluence of the Gunnison and Colorado Rivers.

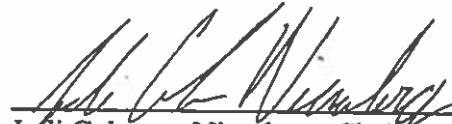
In the last quarter-century tourism has emerged as an important area of economic growth, both nationally and internationally, whose benefits are increasingly being realized in the Grand Valley. From agro-tourism to mountain biking to our resurgent downtown, the Grand Valley possesses an enviable portfolio of tourism assets that have helped diversify the local economy, thereby providing a bulwark against the repeated boom and bust cycles that have historically plagued the region, and whose breadth makes our community an exceptional destination.

The DDA finds that elevation of the CNM to National Park status will further strengthen our community identity and will significantly bolster the critical role our public lands play as the foundation of a diversified economy. The designation of a fifth National Park in the State of Colorado will benefit not only the communities of the Grand Valley, but will further distinguish the State as an incomparable destination for the enjoyment of our natural heritage.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GRAND JUNCTION DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY THAT THE AUTHORITY SUPPORTS THE DESIGNATION OF THE COLORADO NATIONAL MOUNMENT AS A NATIONAL PARK, and;

FURTHERMORE, be it resolved that the Board of Directors of the Authority does authorize and direct staff to transmit this resolution to Representative Tipton and Senators Bennett and Udall and ask for their support of the necessary Congressional action to encourage and direct the change.

ADOPTED this 14th day of March, 2013.



Jodi Coleman-Niernberg, Chair
Chair, Grand Junction Downtown Development Authority





Diane Keliher, Secretary